

THE GLOBAL LINE

Serving the U.S. Army Field Support Command

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Johnson becomes Major General during promotion ceremony



Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm

AFSC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson smiles while his two stars are pinned by Gen. Benjamin Griffin and Gen. Johnson's wife, Doris.

Rock Island, Ill. – Under sunny skies near the banks of the Mississippi River, Brig. Gen. Jerome Johnson was promoted on April 15 to the rank of major general.

The promotion ceremony took place at Constitution Square on Rock Island Arsenal, which hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Army Field Support Command. Maj. Gen. Johnson has served as commanding general of AFSC since June 11, 2004, and previously served at Rock Island as commanding general of one of its predecessor commanders, the U.S. Army War Reserve Support Command and the Field Support Command.

Maj. Gen. Johnson's second star was pinned on his uniform by his wife, Doris, and by Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command. AFSC is among the major subordinate commands of AMC, which is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Maj. Gen. Johnson's sons, Kobie and Anthony, also participated in the ceremony by presenting him with his two-star "cover," a term for the hat worn by Soldiers.

As commanding general of AFSC, Maj. Gen. Johnson leads a global organization responsible for

providing front-line logistics support to combat units. The command manages Army pre-positioned stocks located in strategic locations around the world; maintains weapons and equipment at bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; and oversees the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), which provides contractor support in theaters of operation.

Through its Joint Munitions Command, AFSC provides conventional munitions to the Army and all other U.S. armed services.

Those missions were cited in remarks given by Gen. Griffin, who described AFSC as "our nation's '911' command. When it comes to responding quickly and providing timely, day-to-day support to our soldiers in the field, we rely on AFSC."

Gen. Griffin noted that many Soldiers, civilians and contractor employees from AFSC were providing that support in forward-deployed locations such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. "What they do directly impacts the readiness of our joint military," Gen. Griffin said.

Speaking of Maj. Gen. Johnson, Gen. Griffin

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On the Record: Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, CG AFSC

A few weeks ago, I had the honor and privilege to serve as the Army's senior representative at the funeral of Staff Sgt. Donald Griffith in Mechanicsville, Iowa.

Staff Sgt. Griffith, who was killed in action in Iraq, reportedly gave his own life in order to save the lives of others in his unit. In giving his life to save his fellow Soldiers, he lived by the creed of never leaving a Soldier behind.

In traveling from our headquarters here in Rock Island to the small Iowa town, it made me reflect on my own upbringing in the rural community of Sylvania, Ga. When you are from a small town, everyone knows who you are, your family, and your upbringing. Members of the community all take turns in being a "second parent." The teachers, coaches, ministers, store owners, neighbors – they all play a role in making you who you are as an adult. Mechanicsville did an outstanding



job in raising Staff Sgt. Griffith.

Most of the town of 1,000 came out to remember this Soldier, this hero, as they crowded inside the high school gymnasium. This same gymnasium probably was often the site of some of his most enjoyable moments.

A military member who gives his life defending his country not only is a hero, but is a symbol of those who define the word "freedom."

A funeral and military honors is a moving experience for a military member – whether you are a general or a private. The playing of taps, the flag-draped coffin, and the solemn emotions of family and friends pulls on your emotional fiber.

As a general in the United States Army, it was my duty and honor to tell his family that the nation holds in high esteem the sacrifice he made for them and our country.

Staff Sgt. Griffith did not hesitate to do what needed to be done in Iraq. Because of his actions, Staff Sgt. Griffith died in the line of duty – a noble, honorable and heroic death assuring that others will have the opportunity to live in freedom.

So, as we continue with our jobs in supporting the nation's defense, we recognize that Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Griffin are not only heroes; they become our daily source of inspiration.

CSM of Army Reserve visits AFSC

Delivering an inspired message, the Command Sgt. Major of the Army Reserve left a lasting impression.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones served as guest speaker for the command's annual

Women's History Month luncheon held March 31. This year's theme was "Women, Change, America."

Jones entered the Army in 1982 and has distinguished herself by being the first female to serve as a division command sergeant

major and being selected as the first woman to serve as the command sergeant major of any of the Army's components, Active or Reserve. She is the highest ranking enlisted female in the Army today.

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THE GLOBAL LINE

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Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm

Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army Reserve Michele S. Jones spoke with AFSC Soldiers and civilians to commemorate Women's History Month.

"This is a great month," she said. "It is a time to reflect and a time to honor, recognize and celebrate what women have added to our society."

Jones said she enjoys being a Soldier in today's Army.

"When my 11-year-old says, 'My mommy's a Soldier,' and says it with pride, that lets me know I doing something right. My girls don't need to go out of the home for a role model," she said.

Jones talked about why she puts on her uniform each day.

"God, because he gave me life; my country, because it's my way of life, and my family, because they are my life," she said. "Serving as a Soldier is the only job in the world to me, that protects all those three things."

After the luncheon, Jones took the time to speak with Soldiers assigned to the command.

Sgt. 1st Class Latisha L. Turner, one of the organizers of the event, praised Jones for attending.

"I was very delighted that Command Sgt. Major Jones accepted the invitation to come and speak. To have her here in our presence was a blessing. She has been a pioneer to open many doors for many women in the military. I definitely look forward to having her back in the future."

— Darryl Howlett

First black, female POW speaks with AFSC employees

Shoshanna Johnson, a former soldier who survived 22 days as a prisoner of war in Iraq, spoke at the Iowa/Illinois Chapter of Women In Defense Symposium on March 8 at the Isle of Capri in Bettendorf, Iowa.

"I don't consider myself a hero," she said. "I am the same as any other Soldier who put on their uniform and went to do their job."

According to military records, the retired Army specialist on March 23, 2003, became the first black female prisoner of war.

Johnson, 31, of El Paso, Texas, was captured during Operation Iraqi Freedom, while in a convoy, in the city of an-Nasiriyah. Johnson received a bullet wound to her ankle, causing injuries to both legs.

Earlier in the day, Johnson also spoke to Soldiers and employees of the Army Field Support Command.

Johnson expressed her thanks to the women in the defense industry and urged their continual support to deployed troops. "In order for us to succeed, we need to contribute to our society. We can't sit back and enjoy the benefits and not put anything back in," said Johnson.



Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm

Shoshanna Johnson, the first African-American female prisoner of war, spoke with Cpl. Katherine N. Threadgill, AFSC, during her visit March 8 to Bettendorf, Iowa.

Johnson retired from the Army on December 12, 2003. Johnson's awards and decorations include the US Army Service Ribbon, Army Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and the Prisoner of War Medal.

-- Jacqueline Ashmon

Army service partner earns ISO certification

BETTEMBOURG, Luxembourg - Warehouses Service Agency, Army Field Support Battalion – Luxembourg's service partner, has earned the prestigious International Standardization Organization certifications for Quality Management and Environmental Management Systems.

"The U.S. Army and WSA have been solid partners in a unique joint venture for decades. By earning ISO certification, WSA has reaffirmed its commitment to providing first-class, combat-ready equipment and materiel to Soldiers on the battlefield," said Lt. Col. Mike Bird, FSB-LU commander.

"Supporting an expeditionary U.S. Army demands we maintain the highest standards," said Norbert Giampellegrini, WSA deputy general manager.

Earning ISO certification is a process requiring considerable investment. "WSA was set up by the Luxembourg Government as part of a nation-to-nation agreement with the United States. Our sole, non-profit, mission is to provide services to American armed forces," Giampellegrini said. "So when we decided to go after ISO certification, we turned to the Luxembourg Government for financial support. Taking it as an investment, the Government agreed to under write the initial certification costs, at no expense to the USA."

Having secured funding for its initiative, WSA began the grueling task of thorough organizational self-examination.

Right from the start, WSA and its FSB-LU partners agreed that seeking both quality and environmental management systems certifications would pay dividends. "Besides delivering combat-ready equipment, we are stewards of the environment entrusted to our care," said Andy Fontaness, FSB-LU civilian executive assistant.

By earning ISO 9001:2000 (Quality Management Systems) and ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management Systems) certifications, WSA has become the first of AFSB-Europe's elements to achieve internationally recognized standards.

"This is an important milestone and we aim to achieve the same result throughout the brigade," said Col. Max Lobeto, brigade commander. "The benefits to taxpayers and the Army are clear: efficient and effective delivery of combat-ready equipment to Soldiers who are counting on us."

They're a small operation in a small country, but the FSB-LU/WSA partnership has big standards and goals. After all, theirs is a big job: serving Soldiers in today's expeditionary Army.

— **Chuck Fick, ASFB-Europe Public Affairs**

Avid runner makes best of sport, job

If you ask Karyl Hughes what got her into running, you will find her answer a bit unusual.

Hughes is an administrative support assistant in the Army Field Support Command's Equal Employment Opportunity Office. She has worked for the Army for over 27 years. She started her career in Lexington, Ky., at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

Hughes started running out of necessity. While she was living in Elizabethtown, Ky., the mailbox to her house was a half-mile down the road.

"The only way to get there was either to run or walk," she said. She chose running. And she enjoyed it so much, she kept it up.

Her first race was the Kentucky Derby Half-Marathon. An Arizona native, it took her time to get used to running in the winter in Quad-Cities.

Hughes usually runs six days a week, mostly in her northwest Davenport neighborhood or on the bike path.



Karyl Hughes

Running is not without its hazards. Hughes had knee surgery 6 years ago and has had torn cartilage. She can't do marathons anymore, but she just chalks that up to the 30 years she has run.

"When I had knee surgery, I was told I would never run again," she said. So much for that: She

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Promotion *Continued from page 1*

said, "Jerry is the right person at the right time in our nation's history to lead AFSC. He's made sure that we have the right people in the right places to get the mission done.

"When something has to be done, he's the person I turn to," Gen. Griffin remarked. "And when I do call, Jerry's already leaning forward, ready to act. He has one of the most challenging and visible jobs in the Army, and he does it very well. It is a privilege to promote him."

During his remarks, Maj. Gen. Johnson personally acknowledged many of the family members, friends, community leaders, and professional colleagues present at the ceremony.

Speaking of his wife and sons, Maj. Gen. Johnson said, "It's said that you enlist soldiers, you commission officers, but you keep families. And my family has been essential to keeping me in the military and supporting me throughout my career."

Maj. Gen. Johnson described AFSC as "AMC's link to the tactical Army," and said of Gen. Griffin, "You have truly given us the authority and the resources to execute our mission, and I greatly appreciate that."

Winning the war on terrorism is "only a matter of time," Maj. Gen. Johnson said. He added, "What the Army needs it, cannot buy. It needs men and women who see service to our nation as a matter of

the heart, and who are willing to raise their hands and swear that they will support and defend our Constitution.

"I'm proud to serve our nation, and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve you," Maj. Gen. Johnson concluded. "And to everyone in AFSC, remember that you don't work for me; I work for you. I'm here to get you the resources you need to do your job."

A native of Sylvania, Ga., Maj. Gen. Johnson has served in the Army since 1973, when he earned his commission as an officer through the ROTC program at Fort Valley State College in Georgia and was named as distinguished military graduate. He also holds a master's degree in business administration from Syracuse University. He earned a Senior Service College Fellowship at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and later served there as a director in the School of Advanced Military Studies.

Maj. Gen. Johnson's most recent assignment before returning to Rock Island last June was with Department of the Army Headquarters, as director of plans, operations and readiness in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (G-4). He was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, when the building was attacked by terrorists who had hijacked a civilian airliner.

-- Paul Levesque

Runner *Continued from page 4*

has run in every BIX 7 race since then except this year. She sat this one out because her husband was ill.

She has been in 18 marathons including the Boston Marathon and the Berlin Marathon.

"The first time, I had just flown from Frankfurt, and I was jet-lagged. I got there two days before the marathon, but I was exhausted"

Despite her jet lag, she ran her first Boston Marathon well. The second time she ran it, her biggest thrill was that her mother had flown in from Arizona and was there to watch her.

"I managed to get her a 'press pass' so she was at the starting line to see me start, and she rode on the press bus, so she was at the finish line to see me finish, too. She was always my biggest fan," Hughes said.

Her mother has since passed away, but the

memory of her helps Hughes form her running philosophy.

"I feel her spirit is always with me when I am running, so I keep on running," she said. "If not for me, then for her."

Hughes is well liked by her co-workers if her supervisor's assessment is any indication.

According to Roy Moody, chief, AFSC Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Hughes is a very gentle and pleasant person. "Her demeanor is indicative of an inner calm that is probably attributable to the discipline and concentration she has developed over her many years as a runner," he said. "Her strength of character is apparent as she deals with the ups and downs of her job and her life."

"Karyl is a runner, but unlike many people, I believe she runs toward life, not away from it," he added.

-- Margaret Browne



AFSC news briefs

Russian team inspects US Army battalion

EYGELSHOVEN, Netherlands – Armed with clipboards and reports, a team of nine Russian officers recently inspected Army Field Support Battalion – Eygelshoven. Accompanied by a nine-person American team from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Russians tested compliance with the terms of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

Negotiated in 1990 and enforced by member states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the treaty limits certain categories of weapons and systems, such as tanks and artillery. In addition, the pact spells out reporting requirements designed to assure member states that all treaty-limited equipment is present at its declared location.

The one-day inspection included an exhaustive look into warehouses and workshops operated on behalf of the U.S. Army by NL-POMS, a Dutch Army organization.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Russians



U.S. Army Maj. Chad McGougan, left, accompanies a Russian officer verifying treaty-limited equipment during a recent Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty inspection at Field Service Battalion, Eygelshoven. (US Army photo by Bert de Vries)

pronounced themselves satisfied that the site was in compliance with the terms of the treaty.

ATK reaches production milestone in small-caliber ammo

Minneapolis, MN. – Alliant Techsystems achieved a significant production milestone in small-caliber ammunition by delivering 1.2 billion rounds to the U.S. Army in its Fiscal Year 2005, which ended on March 31. ATK operates the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Mo., where it produces a mix of 5.56mm, 7.62mm, 50-caliber and various other small-caliber rounds.

Since winning the contract to produce small-caliber ammunition in April 2000, ATK has steadily increased production from 350 million rounds to 1.2 billion rounds. The company is working aggressively to further increase capacity. Under ATK's leadership, the Lake City plant has embarked on an aggressive Six-Sigma management effort to increase production

levels. At the same time, ATK and the Army have invested the resources necessary to provide U.S. armed forces with the small-caliber ammunition they need to successfully train and fight the global war on terrorism.

The expansion and modernization initiatives currently underway at Lake City are designed to further increase production capacity to approximately 1.5 billion rounds annually within the next twelve months.

ATK is a \$2.4 billion advanced weapon and space company employing approximately 14,000 people in 23 states.

ATK operates army ammunition plants for the U.S. Joint Munitions Command.